



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL  
1230 YORK AVENUE · NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

2 July 1979



Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
President  
The Rockefeller University

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

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Dr. Kappas showed me your note concerning the study by Mucklow et al. comparing antipyrine clearances in meat eaters and lactovegetarians. The study is of interest, but it does not identify precisely which dietary factors were responsible for the differences observed. Although little information is given in this abstract, the subjects were probably not on carefully controlled diets provided by a Diet Kitchen, and the intakes of dietary protein, carbohydrate, and fats were probably assessed by retrospective dietary histories. Age and racial differences were also not controlled for in their study. This is in contrast to our studies in which we have fed carefully calculated and weighed diets to normal volunteers, and have used each subject as his or her own control.

We have not looked at the effects of age in our studies. There is published evidence that antipyrine clearance rates decrease with age. This age effect does not appear very marked, and occurs on a background of large interindividual variations due to environmental and genetic factors. Intraindividual changes with time can also be significant if environmental and nutritional influences are not constant.

Thanks for sending us this information.

Yours sincerely,

Karl E. Anderson, M.D.  
Associate Professor